

Amendments to the Claims:

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough, are expressed in the listing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~surface-covering~~ sheet comprising~~[[:]]~~ a consolidated layer formed from a blend, the blend comprising a first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein each of the jaspe agglomerated particles of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles comprise a first region particle from a first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and a second region [[of]] particle from a second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first particle characteristics.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering~~ sheet of claim 1, wherein the first ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic has an amount of filler level different from the amount of filler level of the second ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering sheet~~ of claim [[3]] 6, wherein the first material and the second ~~polymeric~~ material are thermoplastic.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering sheet~~ of claim [[3]] 6, wherein the first ~~polymeric~~ material [[has]] comprises a polymer having a first average molecular weight and the second ~~polymeric~~ material [[has]] comprises a polymer having a second average molecular weight.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering sheet~~ of claim 1, wherein the first ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic includes a first material and the second ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic includes a second material.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering sheet~~ of claim 1, wherein the particles of the first region is plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic are transparent or translucent.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~surface-covering sheet~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~consolidated-layer blend~~ further comprises a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, the second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles.

9. (Withdrawn) A welding rod ~~comprising:~~
~~consolidated jaspe agglomerated particles, wherein the jaspe agglomerated~~
~~particles comprises a first region and second region of different visual characteristics~~
formed from the sheet of claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the ~~region~~ plurality of
particles having a first visual characteristic has a filler level different from a filler level of
the second ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

12. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 14, wherein the first
material and the second ~~polymeric~~ material are thermoplastic.

13. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 14, wherein the first
~~polymeric~~ material ~~[[has]]~~ comprises a polymer having a first average molecular weight
and the second ~~polymeric~~ material ~~[[has]]~~ comprises a polymer having a second average
molecular weight.

14. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first ~~region~~
plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic includes a first material and the
second ~~region~~ plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic includes a
second material.

15. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the particles of the first region is plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic are transparent or translucent.

16. (Withdrawn) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the ~~consolidated layer~~ blend further comprises a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles, the second particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a ~~surface covering~~ sheet comprising:

agglomerating a first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and a second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic to form a first plurality of jaspe agglomerated ~~partiele~~ particles, the first plurality of particles and the second plurality of particles forming the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated ~~partiele~~ particles each including comprising at least one polymeric material, ~~a first plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated partiele having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of a second plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated partiele;~~

forming a blend comprising the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles; and
consolidating the ~~jaspe agglomerated partiele~~ blend to form a layer having a jaspe finish visual appearance.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric material comprises a thermoplastic.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the jaspe ~~agglomerated particles are~~ blend is consolidated to form a layer by pressing in a roll press, a flat bed press or belted press.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the roll press is a calender.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the belted press is a double belted press.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles are mixed with a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles including at least one polymeric material ~~prior to consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles to form the layer~~ to form the blend, the jaspe agglomerated particles of the second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of the jaspe agglomerated particles of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles.

Claim 23 (Canceled).

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising grinding the jasper agglomerated particles.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material exhibiting a first color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second color.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material exhibiting a first shade of a color and a second polymeric material exhibiting a second shade of the color.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics ~~include~~ results from a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight.

28. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the visually different characteristics include a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the particles of the first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic ~~forming the jasper agglomerated particle~~ are transparent or translucent.

Claims 30 to 33 (Canceled).

34. (Withdrawn) A method of making ~~[[a]]~~ the welding rod of claim 9
comprising:

agglomerating a first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and a second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic to form a first plurality of jaspe agglomerated ~~particle~~ particles, the first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and the second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic forming the jaspe agglomerated particle each including comprising at least one polymeric material, a first plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle having a visual characteristic different than the visual characteristic of a second plurality of the particles forming the jaspe agglomerated particle;

forming a blend comprising the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles;

~~[[and]]~~

consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles blend to form a layer having a jaspe visual appearance;

placing the layer in a mold; and

pressing the layer into a plurality of welding ~~[[rod]]~~ rods having a jaspe finish visual appearance.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of ~~consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles forming the blend~~ includes mixing a second plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles having a visual characteristic different that the visual characteristic of the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles ~~prior to consolidating the jaspe agglomerated particles into in welding rod.~~

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, further comprising grinding the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the visually different characteristics results from the first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic comprising a first polymeric material and the second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic comprising a second polymeric material, the first and second polymeric materials having characteristics ~~[[are]]~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~[[a]]~~ the first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and ~~[[a]]~~ the second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, [[a]] the first polymeric material forming particles having a first average particle size and ~~[[a]]~~ the second polymeric material forming particles having a second average particle size, [[a]] the first polymeric material being substantially opaque and ~~[[a]]~~ the second polymeric material being substantially transparent or translucent, [[a]] the first polymeric material exhibiting a first color and ~~[[a]]~~ the second polymeric material exhibiting a second color, [[a]] and the first polymeric material exhibiting a first shade of a color and ~~[[a]]~~ the second polymeric material exhibiting a second shade of a

color, ~~a first polymeric material having a first number average molecular weight and a second polymeric material having a second number average molecular weight, and a first polymeric material having a first average particle size and a second polymeric material having a second average particle size.~~

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein ~~[[of]]~~ the particles which form the first plurality jaspe agglomerated particles are thermoplastic.

40. (New) The sheet of claim 1, wherein the interface between jaspe agglomerated particles is labyrinthine.

41. (New) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the interface between jaspe agglomerated particles is labyrinthine.

42. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the particles forming the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles melt and flow to form a labyrinthine interface between the jaspe agglomerated particles during the consolidating step.

43. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the particles forming the first plurality of jaspe agglomerated particles melt and flow to form a labyrinthine interface between the jaspe agglomerated particles during the consolidating step.

44. (New) The sheet of claim 1, wherein the first particle and the second particle are solid-colored, agglomerated particles.

45. (New) The welding rod of claim 9, wherein the first particle and the second particle are solid-colored, agglomerated particles.

46. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and the second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic are solid-colored agglomerated particles.

47. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the first plurality of particles having a first visual characteristic and the second plurality of particles having a second visual characteristic are solid-colored agglomerated particles.